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LETTER

TO

A Physician in the Country

ON

ANIMAL-MAGNETISM,

WITH

HIS ANSWER.

How better than they are, are all things made
By wonder?

BEN JOHNSON.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. DEBRETT,

OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-HOUSE, IN PICCADILLY.

MDCC LXXXVI.



P R E F A C E.

THE Editor begs leave to inform his Readers, that the two following Letters were not originally intended for the press; but a select party of friends being of opinion that they might not prove entirely *useless*, or unentertaining, obtained leave of the writers to give them to the public, with the addition of a few explanatory notes.

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A
L E T T E R,
&c. &c.

London, April 20, 1786,

DEAR DOCTOR,

YOUR very anxious and
particular enquiry concerning the pro-
gress of the new science, which bears
the name of *Animal Magnetism*, does not
very much surprize me, as it seems to
spread a general alarm through every
B branch

branch of the medical profession, by hanging out a speedy, certain, and effectual cure for every disorder to which our poor imperfect frame is exposed, either by inheritance, intemperance, or decay. Having had the curiosity to attend several public exhibitions of the most celebrated professor in this line, and having spared no pains to make the most minute enquiries into the grounds of his doctrine, I have been able to collect, that the system of this admirable and truly useful virtuoso, as well as that of his enlightened brother adepts, is nearly as follows :

That the undescribable power, to which they have by common consent agreed to give the name of *Animal Magnetism*, is *inherent* in every living organized being ; but that the art of reciprocally applying it, to and from each other,

other, for the discovery and cure of the many distempers to which human nature is so liable, is known only to a chosen few ; being the result of intense study, and not to be acquired without long and assiduous practice. That this knowledge is capable of being taught, and communicated like other branches of science ; but that some fortunate individuals will, notwithstanding, possess this desirable power in a superior degree to others ; in the same manner, as we every day see wide differences in the abilities, strength, health, &c. of different persons of our acquaintance. That some constitutions are much more sensible to the operations of this power than others, owing probably to a greater irritability in the nervous system. That persons of firm muscular texture, and rude health, are hardly affected by the emanations of the magnetic

effluvia at all ; Nature having wisely ordained, that such as stand most in need of the assistance of these salutiferous exhalations, should be most susceptible of their energetic impulses. That the effect of the magnetical effluxions on some habits is so strong, as to throw those who possess them into a kind of temporary trance, or extatic idiocy, during which period they have every appearance of somno-ambulants :—This situation the learned revivors * of this art have chosen to dignify with the appellation of the *crisis*.—That during this *crisis* the patient is absolutely, soul and body, under the dominion of the person who has thrown *her* † into this condition ; and is obliged, involuntarily,

* The Letter-writer's reasons for using the word revivors will appear in the sequel.

† He deems himself authorized to make use of the feminine gender through this part of his letter, as he never

involuntarily, to answer every question proposed by the magnetizer; and to submit to his, or her, commands implicitly.—That as long as this state of torpid insensibility continues, or, in the terms of art, during the *crisis*, the patient is totally insensible to what she does herself, as well as to what is passing around her; but at the same time, she becomes possessed of the very peculiar and wonderful faculty of finding out the constitutional, or accidental, complaints of any persons who will submit to be felt and examined by her; her power, indeed, while she remains in this admirable paroxysm, which may be called either a state of exaltation, or debasement, is extended still

never saw more than one male patient under the hands of the operator; or ever heard that any *man* had been found with nerves tender enough to reach the sublime height of magnetism called the *crisis*.

higher;

higher; as she is then likewise gifted with the additional and inconceivable ability of perceiving distinctly, by the simple act of *vision* alone, what passes in the minutest vessels of the person under her examination: she continues in this enviable condition for some hours, long enough to scrutinize with microscopic accuracy the internals of a variety of under-patients, unless the charm is taken off, if I may so express myself, by the same person who first brought her to the *crisis*, or by some other operator equally skilled in this magnetic mystery.—What yet adds to this almost miraculous privilege, is, that the patient, when she returns again to the enjoyment of her own proper faculties, is totally insensible to every particular which has passed during her temporary abstraction. Such a predisposing idiosyncrasy of nerves is not, indeed,

deed, commonly met with, as enables a patient to arrive at a compleat *crisis*; those persons therefore who are found perfectly susceptible of so rare a sensibility, are considered as the distinguished favourites of Nature, and are of course exceedingly prized; as by means of the discoveries made by these involuntary agents it is, that the Doctor arrives at the knowledge of the most complicated and hidden disorders.—The common symptoms of other patients, who are incapable of arriving at this desired acmé, are involuntary somnolency, hysteric and spasmodic affections, such as sweating, laughing, crying, sighing, coughing, sneezing, fainting, &c. &c. and a few are occasionally thrown into the most violent convulsions. These, it seems, are all of them different methods adopted by Nature, for throwing off the various burthens with which she is overloaded.

overloaded.—A further principle of this very useful science is, that the particles of magnetism rebound again, if I may be permitted to use the term, from the patients to the operators, mixed with, and accompanied by, the noxious miasma of the disease itself, to the no small annoyance of the magnetizers; who consequently find themselves sometimes involved in very disagreeable and painful circumstances:—but these symptoms, though rather alarming, subside by degrees, according to the strength, or weakness of the rebounding impulses. This effect is termed by the adepts *magnetical re-action*, and is more particularly felt by those, who during the continuance of the *crisis* on themselves, are employing their newly acquired powers, in discovering the infirmities of the patients under their examination, as appears by the evident
marks

marks of pain and distress, which they express during their charitable investigation.

This *admirable* operation is performed, by seating the patient in a chair, and throwing the animo-magnetic effluvia from the ends of the operator's fingers into the different parts of the patient's body, by gentle jerks, or sprinklings, at any *distance* in the room*, both doctor and patient preserving a rigorous silence, and the former rivetting his eyes strongly on the latter. Though a constant action of the fingers is kept up by the operator,

* In his introductory discourse, the learned professor assures his auditory, that *distance* has little or nothing to do with the effects of animal magnetism, for that he could just as easily affect a patient from one side of Bloomsbury-square to the other, as he could in his Exhibition-room; an assertion which not one of the company seemed to doubt the truth of.

as if he was sprinkling his patient with holy water, the streams of the healing fluid pass unseen, unheard, and, by the confession of the patients themselves, totally unfelt. Three or four subjects are generally under this course at the same time; one under the supreme director of the ceremony himself, and others committed to the care of some of his initiated assistants, either male or female. In about a quarter of an hour the effects of the magnetic impression begin to appear, by a visible anxiety and uneasiness in the countenances of the different patients, accompanied with a dejection of look, and a difficulty of breathing; the performers then ply them with quicker and stronger motions of their hands and fingers, which, by degrees, occasions them to exhibit the various appearances I have already described.—Among other patients,

which

which at different exhibitions I had the pleasure to see subjected to this very singular operation, there was a robust middle aged man, who, in hopes of a cure for a gouty habit, *as he informed the company*, submitted publicly to be worked into the strongest and most violent convulsions, to the no small terror of the female part of a very polite and respectable assembly, which curiosity had contributed to bring together: This very complaisant patient sweated, groaned, writhed, kicked, plunged, and rolled about the floor, during the process, with great *seeming* agony; though, on an application to his pulse, I could not perceive any the least alteration in that established index of animal sensation.—On expressing my surprize, however, at such a disappointment, I was given to understand, that among other striking characteristics

of its singularity, this operation possessed that of not at all affecting the arterial circulation of those even under its strongest impulses; and that of course these *magnetic convulsions* were very *different* from those to which the body is subject in the ordinary course of Nature; to which opinion I was the more readily induced to subscribe, after making the same unsuccessful experiment on a lady in the very sublimest height of the celebrated *crisis*, who, though to all appearance half asleep, quite lifeless, and utterly insensible, possessed a very firm and regular pulsation. On this occasion, though I felt myself perfectly free from any indisposition, I could not resist the very favourable opportunity which offered itself, of being informed, with such unerring certainty, whether every thing was really and *bona fide* as sound *within me* as I flattered myself;

I therefore

I therefore cheerfully submitted to the uncontrouled examination of this singularly gifted damsel ; who was accordingly conducted to me by one of the Doctor's female assistants, and supported herself by leaning on me with one hand, while she employed the other in feeling, and wandering lightly, with no unpleasant friction, over the region of the thorax ; occasionally straying down the sternum, towards the ensiform-cartilage, and short ribs ; and at times insensibly creeping along the abdomen, in a direction to the os-pubis ; which, as my sensations of every kind are naturally rather acute, produced nearly the complicate, and semi-painful effect of tickling ; not willingly, however, to interrupt her interesting researches, I bore her tantalizing touches with determined resignation. After about ten minutes investigation, the experienced
 substitute

substitute under whose immediate influence my searher was at the time, asked her what she observed in my inside ; she replied in a languid broken tone, that she plainly perceived something red, with a black spot upon it ; the adept immediately told me, with the utmost gravity of authority, that my spleen was undoubtedly affected : On a further enquiry, she said, she discerned something like smoke rising out of my left side ; this phœnomenon her interpreter did not seem so well able to account for ; I could not, however, help giving some degree of credit to the fair oracle, as I actually began to feel, that my *spleen* was indeed very inclinable to rise. I then acquainted the manager, that having accidentally in my youth had the misfortune to fracture a rib or two, which at times gave me much pain, I should consider myself highly

highly

highly obliged to him, if he would direct his submissive agent to exert her supernatural perceptions, and inform him whether those unfortunate bones were perfectly cemented. The Doctor, with the liberality of a man of true science, said, he should be very ready to comply with my request, as it was perfectly within the sphere of his pupil's power to satisfy any such reasonable doubts; but that at present, he observed his protégée was growing uncommonly faint and weak, and that humanity called upon him to restore her to her senses; which he accordingly proceeded to do, with a few vigorous and efficacious applications from the fingers of both hands; on receiving the influence of which, she appeared to revive gradually, as from a dream, and thus the exhibition concluded. On my departure from this very extraordinary scene, I could not
 avoid

avoid remarking, that all who had been the subject of animo-magnetical experiments, except myself, remained in the learned Doctor's apartments, which led me to conclude, that they were either what is called *in-door* patients, or else, that with the politeness and liberality which so apparently distinguishes his conduct, this worthy professor had previously invited them to partake of a refreshing meal, after the fatigues of the morning.

I have already hinted, that this promising science is by no means a new discovery, nor indeed pretended to be so by the modern revivors of it. A reader of curious research will find evident traces of it in the Rabbinical writings of the most ancient Jews, as well as in the books of the eastern Gymnosophists. Something analogous to it may also be met with,

dispersed

dispersed among the remaining fragments of Egyptian learning, and in the works of the most refined of the Grecian philosophers. But a doctrine of this tendency is much more perceptibly scattered up and down the abstruse and mysterious productions of many of the Rosicrucio-hermetic Illuminati, about two or three centuries back ; particularly in the *occult philosophy* of the celebrated *Cornelius Agrippa*—In *Raymundius Lulius de airtutue magnetis*—In the *Theologia Mystica* of *Conradus Absurdus*—In *Albertus Magnus De Natura Rerum*—In the *Opuscula Curiosa* of *Bartholdus Bumbostrokius*—The *Mundus Magneticus* of *Casimir Okolskoy* likewise abounds in references to the existence of such a subtle, and potent agent, in the component parts of animal bodies. Neither were the learned Arabian chymists and metaphysicians totally without ideas of the preva-

lence of this wonderful quality in man,
 as may be easily seen, by consulting the
Ketaz-aziz of that eminent Doctor, *Abdul-*
far-azer, and others of their principal
 authors. The sublime and exalted doc-
 trines of quietism, which were propagated
 with such wonderful success by the Jesuit
Molinos, about a hundred and fifty years
 ago, seem also to have no small connec-
 tion with the lately revived opinions con-
 cerning animal magnetism; the extatic
 transports, and mental annihilations, to
 which the chosen devotees of that sect
 were subject, during the continuance of
 which the soul was totally ignorant, and
 consequently innocent, of what was going on
 in the poor deserted body, must be allow-
 ed to bear a striking similitude to the pre-
 sent fashionable *crisis*. To an agency of
 this animo-magnetic kind must likewise
 be attributed the successful operations of
 that

that renowned Jesuit, Father *Girard*, upon his lovely penitents, Mesdames *Cadiere*, *Batterelle*, *La Guiol*, *La Laugier*, *La Re-boul*, &c. &c. with this trifling difference only, that the pious director of the tender consciences of those susceptible young ladies possessed the more refined art of communicating the magnetic impulses, and producing the desired *crisis* among his fair patients, by only *breathing* on them.—For my own part, I have even had my doubts, whether a vein of this magnetic power is not discoverable in the highly elaborated passages of some of the most sentimental modern novels, especially those imported from our refined neighbours the French, towards the improvement of the rising generation. The *bewitching communications*, *undescribable sensations*, *involuntary palpitations*, *ineffable perceptions*, *sympathetic attractions*, *lambent ef-*

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fusions,

fusions, melting thrillings, intuitive vibrations, fatal fascinations, and extatic deliriums, with which these moral and entertaining productions are filled, may perhaps be as easily accounted for, by the energetic action and re-action of the *animo-magnetic* particles, abounding in the corporeal atoms of two young persons of different sexes, as upon the old-fashioned principles of mutual *love* and *inclination*.

Prefuming that your curiosity is fully satisfied, as to the undoubted efficacy of this method for the discovery and cure of every disorder, I shall next proceed to inform you of the means, by which our English professor of this useful art proposes to render it of the most important and extensive benefit to mankind. In his introductory lecture, which may be called a kind of prologue to those eleemosynary

synary * exhibitions, he pathetically laments the backwardness of the faculty, in applying to him for instruction and initiation; and very generously pledges himself to discover his secret, without fee or reward, to any six regular bred physicians, upon their giving him their honour only, that they will afterwards practise upon nine poor subjects *gratis* every morning. Now, as the whole process seldom exceeds an hour for each patient, it is certainly not a little extraordinary, and much to be lamented, that

* The word *eleemosynary* may perhaps be deemed by the reader to be improperly used in this place, when he is told, that the very candid professor informs his audience, that something will be expected by the servant who introduces them, towards cleaning and preparing the exhibition room, &c. Now, two hundred, or two hundred and fifty half-crowns, or even shillings, every week, is no trifling douceur to somebody. The famous Celestial Doctor also gives his lectures *gratis*, on his servants receiving a shilling for candles.

not

not a single individual of the worthy tribe of our medical philanthropists have yet applied for admission, as they could arrive at the possession of this inestimable arcanum, for the paltry consideration of devoting so small a portion of their time as nine hours a day to the relief of the poor and afflicted. Another branch of his most benevolent plan is, to form two Hygiæan societies, one of twenty ladies, and another of twenty gentlemen, who are separately to be fully instructed in the theory and practice of this admirable mystery, by which, to use the worthy Doctor's own words, “ They will be enabled to
 “ prevent, relieve, and cure, almost every
 “ disease to which the human body is
 “ subject, without the assistance of any
 “ preparations or machinery whatsoever ;
 “ the great Maker of all having wonder-
 “ fully given us the means of alleviating
 “ our

“our own and our fellow-creatures sufferings:” and of doing what is still more truly astonishing, “of perhaps enabling life to continue until some material part of the machine *wears out**.”—After each of these classes are fully and perfectly accomplished, it is further intended, that they shall reciprocally, and without the smallest reserve, *communicate* their discoveries and improvements to each other.—This benevolent communication is not indeed, it seems, to be confined to England, but the public spirited Doctor promises to incorporate these chosen sons and daughters of Hygiæa into a very brilliant corps of the same kind, now flourishing in Paris with the *dernier éclat*, under the auspices of his celebrated colleague Doctor *D'Esion*; a society of which, if I mistake not, the much admired Count

* See the Doctor's little blue book, which is particularly addressed, and given to the *ladies*.

and Countess *Cagliostro* were the original founders; and, till their late unfortunate retirement, the leading directors and patrons. As these societies encrease, and improve, there is little doubt but they will be deemed worthy of *princely* encouragement, and formed into one grand and truly respectable body: nor do I despair, but that the transactions of a Royal-*Animo-magnetic Society* * will prove, in due time, as useful, if not altogether as entertaining, as the periodical publications of other learned and dignified bodies.—

The

* Although the modern revivors of this abstruse science have thought proper to christen it by the name of *Animal Magnetism*, I have not been able to learn that the efficacy of their secret has been tried on any part of the creation, except the animal bipes et implume, for which I leave the professors themselves to account.—I cannot, however, help suspecting, that the variety of cheins scavants, learned canary-birds, wise horses, and pigs of knowledge, not to mention the select and most admired part of the company at *Sadlers Wells*, must have been tutored

by

The progress and diffusion of this mysterious science will likewise most inevitably afford a new and additional fund of matter for the paragraph writers in our numerous daily, and weekly, sheets of information. Now, my worthy old friend, as anticipation of every kind is so much the fashion, I trust you will indulge me, in looking forward a few years towards the contents of future news-papers, in which I cannot but conceive something like the following articles of intelligence must in course make their appearance. :

by adepts in this art ; as it is very remarkable how attentive all these different enlightened brute animals appear to be to the motions of their preceptors' fingers.— If this is actually the case, I see no reason why we may not flatter ourselves with the prospect of being able to keep our spavined horses, and mangy hounds, from the cruel operations of merciless farriers, and commit them, as *out-door patients* at least, to the care of the subaltern satellites of the animo-magnetic academies.

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“ We have it in our power to assure our readers, that the violent feuds, and animosities, which have long subsisted between the different magnetic and Hygiæan clubs are in a fair way of being speedily adjusted ; and that a selection of the most experienced members of those different bodies is to be cemented into one grand animo-magnetic society, without distinction of country, age, sex, or complexion ; the only difficulty seems to be in the disposal of the chair of this eminent and scientific meeting, for which honor there are many candidates ; it is supposed, however, the election will fall either on the all-accomplished Colonel *Van-Smouch* of the Guards, the elegant Signora *Piozzi*, the much talked of Count *Cagliostro*, or *Schiek Mansour*, the new Mahometan prophet.”

“ From

“ From Kensington Gardens we hear, that Lady *Bridget Bumbustle* was last Saturday morning most disagreeably interrupted in a magnetical conference with Major *McNeedle*, by the sudden and unexpected intrusion of the two Miss *Fidgets*, just as the Major was expecting the happy result of his efforts to reduce the fair patient to the so much boasted crisis.”

“ Our accounts from Tottenham Court Chapel all agree, that the new doctrine of animal magnetism begins involuntary to mix itself with the effusions of the most gifted of the tabernacle apostles; and that a certain very popular holder-forth was observed, in a late pathetic discourse, to hint more than obliquely at the magnetical influence of grace.”

“ From the Quakers meeting in Lombart-Street, also, we are told of the like general tendency of the fashionable doctrine, which is observed to intrude itself into the pious rhapsodies of the most illuminated speakers ; and that the celebrated female orator, sister Ruth, was convicted of dropping something about the magnetical operation of the spirit ; some folks, indeed, go so far as to say, that this truly enlightened sister has actually proposed herself for one of the present female vacancies in the Royal-animo-magnetic Society, so recently, and so harmoniously established.”

“ Our last intelligence from Newman-street is, that Colonel *Dreadnought*, having very good-naturedly undertaken the cure of the celebrated *Sally Sulphur*, who has long been labouring under a complication

cation of disorders, suffered so considerably from the deleterious effects of the animo-magnetic *re-action*, that he has unfortunately been confined to his room for some weeks ; and it is even a doubt among the members of the Hygiæan corps, whether this brave and humane officer will ever be rightly his own man again."

" From a certain county, not a thousand miles west of London, we learn, that as Miss *Patty Pouter*, a young lady of the most remarkable sensibility, was taking a solitary walk in her papa's woods, with Rousseau's *Eloise* in her hand, she was accidentally surprized by Lord *Lurewell*, a young nobleman remarkable for his scientific researches into the depths of animal magnetism ; what may have passed at this interview is only matter of conjecture,

jecture, as the young lady was found by her aunt *Wrinkle*, reclining on a mossy bank, in a kind of half sleepy, but apparently pleasing idiocy, from which it was some time before she could be perfectly recovered, and even then she was able to recollect little more than the mere meeting with the engaging Peer."

"The last male vacancy in the Animo-Magnetic Society, we hear, was filled by that very manly hero Major *Motherill*, not long since distinguished by the name of the *Brighton Taylor*; This gentleman was, it seems, proposed by the Duchess Dowager of *Dandilion*, and carried his election by a most decided majority. The contest on this occasion lay between the Major and the illustrious opera singer, Signor *Coglionulli*; but it seems, that this unfortunate prince of quavers was not favoured with a single female voice."

“ A West-country paper acquaints us, that as the Reverend Dr. *Dumpling* was preaching his afternoon sermon before the Mayor and Corporation of B—, he was perceived to subside by degrees into a state of apparent lethargy, and actually at length sunk down fast asleep in the bottom of his pulpit. The Aldermen in general imputed this unlucky mischance to the narcotic effects of half a dozen soft-roed mackarel, which the good Doctor had hastily tucked under his girdle at dinner, without having time to dilute them with his usual quantity of port. Some more acute observers were, however, inclined to think, that the Doctor’s whimsical situation arose entirely from the mischievous manœuvres of the sprightly widow, Mrs. *Wishfort*, who was seated directly in front of the pulpit; as that lady is well known to be a warm candidate

candidate for animo-magnetic orders, and was seen during the prayers to employ her taper fingers in a manner not very orthodox. It is even whispered, that this was by no means the first time she had successfully carried on her magnetical attacks to the discomfiture of the poor Doctor's philosophy."

"We are just made acquainted, that Prince *Lobcokwitz*, a most elegant and accomplished young nobleman from Poland, is lately arrived at the Royal Hotel, in St. James's Street, with a view to put himself under a regular course of animal magnetism, in hopes of relief for some very alarming and interesting symptoms of relaxation, previous to his espousals with a beautiful young Princess of the noble and ancient House of *Libidinowsky*."

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“ A Correspondent observes to us, that among other remarkable singularities attending the members of that very useful and distinguished body the *Animo-Magnetic Society*, and the inferior Hygiæan meetings dependant thereon, it is universally allowed, that their lucubrations, of whatever kind they may be, seem invariably to tend towards producing opposite effects on the constitutions of the different sexes, by visibly improving the corpulence of the *female* virtuosi, at the same time that the *male* students are, by their indefatigable exertions, most of them reduced to mere skeletons.”

“ I have thus, my very worthy old friend, endeavoured to contribute towards your information and entertainment, by answering the different queries I lately received from you, in the best manner I

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am able. I ought, perhaps, in a former part of this letter to have acquainted you, that the Doctor has already some very respectable subscribers to both his classes of pupils, some of whom, among the *male* students, are kind and condescending enough to appear, not only as encouragers of the Professor's laudable undertaking, but even to act *publicly* as assistants at his weekly exhibitions.— Equally ready on any future occasion to devote the little leisure I possess to oblige you,

I am, &c.

MAY

——, MAY 5th, 1786.

YOU have, I assure you, my dear Sir, very materially gratified the curiosity of a retired old friend, by your obliging account of the actual state of the new revived science of *animal magnetism*. Yet, as an old man, who is perhaps a little soured by the long experience he has had of the weaknesses and follies of mankind, you must allow me the liberty of saying, I cannot but be of opinion, that you have handled too lightly, and too much in the modern stile of levity, a subject which, though it is certainly a fair butt for the shafts of ridicule, yet at the same time appears to me big with fatal mischief to the morals of my

fair countrywomen : You will therefore excuse me, if I am rather more serious on the occasion than you have thought it necessary to be, or than the object appeared to you to merit.—You have often heard me say I was personally acquainted with Mary Tofts, the famous rabbit breeder of Godalming ; and that I knew the renowned Elizabeth Canning, and had attended many of her examinations. You know that I passed several nights in attending the knockings and scratchings of the Cock-lane ghost ; and we have together devoted a few occasional hours to the extraordinary lectures of the now forgotten Celestial Doctor. Yet to you, my friend, I will not hesitate to declare, that I consider the present endeavours to introduce such an absurd doctrine as that of *animal magnetism*, as the most impudent and barefaced attempt ever conceived

ceived by the imagination of artful and frontless knavery, to impose upon the easy credulity of mankind, or rather of *womankind*, as the weaker but most lovely part of the creation, seem to be the particular game for which these animomagnetical snares are obviously preparing. I trust, however, that the great share of native delicacy, and good sense, for which Englishwomen are so justly celebrated, will prove a sufficient guard against the principles of a doctrine, which might otherwise prove so fatal to their virtue, and peace of mind.—Should not every woman shudder at the most distant idea, that it is in the power of a man, by any means whatever, to reduce her imperceptibly, and contrary to her inclination, to such a state as renders her totally insensible of what she is doing, and perfectly indifferent about her actions; to a
situation

situation indeed, wherein she is under the unavoidable necessity of submitting implicitly to whatever he may require of her ! With what propriety then can any woman of refined sentiments entertain a moment's thought of becoming a member of a Society established on the supposed existence of such a destructive power ; or countenance, even by occasional attendance, meetings where such tenets are publicly inculcated by precept, and attempted to be enforced by ridiculous, childish, and disgusting experiments. I may, perhaps, be deemed too anxiously serious on this occasion ; yet I cannot help wishing, that the fallacy, absurdity, and dangerous tendency, of this new-fangled prevailing madness may fall under the critical investigation and exposure of as acute and indefatigable a friend to mankind as the public spirited

rited detector of the once followed *Piscuyker*, of *Red-Lion-Square*. If there are, as you inform me, any *gentlemen*, either of *real* rank, or *tolerable* exterior, who openly espouse the cause of *animal-magnettism*, I cannot avoid hinting, that their conduct in this particular must, in the opinion of the judicious part even of the *fashionable* world, most assuredly call in question either their common sense, or common honesty. With my most ardent wishes for the detection of imposture of every kind.

I am, &c.

F I N I S.

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To which is added,

Mr. HASTINGS'S LETTER to WILLIAM DEVAYNES, Esq. Chairman of the India Company, from Cheltenham, July 11, 1785; on the subj^t of Money privately received. Price 1s. 6d.





